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NORTH CAROLINA

Farm Report

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QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE AUG 17 1950

1. HOW MANY SOWS ARE TO BE FARROWED THIS FALL?
2. DISCUSS NORTH CAROLINA PRICES RECEIVED INDEX.
3. HOW MANY CHICKS WERE HATCHED IN N. C. DURING MAY?
4. COMPARE THE SPRING PIG CROP WITH THE 1949 SPRING CROP
5. HOW DID 1949 COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER COMPARE WITH 1948?
6. HOW MANY GRADE "A" MILK PRODUCERS WERE IN THE STATE IN APRIL?
7. COMPARE MARCH FURNITURE PRICES WITH PRICES A YEAR AGO.
8. WHAT IS THE U. S. PARITY RATIO FOR MAY?
9. GIVE NORTH CAROLINA PRICES RECEIVED FOR MAY.
10. COMPARE MAY FEED PRICES WITH APRIL.

No. 64

RALEIGH, N. C.

JULY 5, 1950

AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND OTHER CURRENT ITEMS

STATE PIG CROP UP 5 PERCENT

In North Carolina, the number of pigs saved in the spring season of 1950 (December 1, 1949 to June 1, 1950) is estimated to be 942,000, 5 percent above the 897,000 pigs produced during the same period last year. The current estimate is 19 percent above the 10 year (1939-48) average of 794,000.

The number of sows farrowing in the spring of 1950 is estimated at 145,000. This number is an increase of 5 percent over last year and 12 percent above the 10 year average of 129,000.

The number of pigs saved per litter is estimated at 6.5, the same as for the comparable period a year ago but 5 percent above the 10 year average.

If farmers follow their present intentions, the number of sows farrowed during the fall season (June 1 to December 1) will be 3 percent below the number farrowed during the same period in 1949. Farmers indicate intentions to farrow 107,000 sows during the coming fall season, as compared with 110,000 far-

(Continued on Page 4)

GRADE "A" MILK PRODUCTION RISES SHARPLY

Grade "A" milk production and the number of Grade "A" milk producing farms in North Carolina continue to increase over previous years, according to reports received from North Carolina Dairy Plants through April of this year.

The total number of Grade "A" producers jumped from 2,126 in April, 1948 to 3,703 in April, 1950 - an increase of 74 percent. April purchases of Grade "A" milk by North Carolina distributors in April this year was 37 million pounds, an increase of 7½ million pounds over April, 1949 and 15 million pounds increase over April, 1948.

Reports received through April indicate to some degree, that North Carolina producers are giving more attention to management practices tending towards leveling out seasonal fluctuations in production. The average daily deliveries per farm to plants in April this year was 334 pounds, a drop of 10 pounds per farm from 1948 and 7 pounds under 1949.

N. C. SLAUGHTER DROPS SHARPLY IN 1949

Commercial slaughter of livestock in North Carolina dropped sharply during 1949. Every species showed a decline both in numbers and total liveweight. In numbers calves led the decline with 1949 slaughter totalling only 56.4 percent of the previous year. Slaughter of sheep and lambs was down 41.5 percent, cattle 34.5 percent and the number of hogs slaughtered during the year was 6.2 percent below the 1948 total.

In total liveweight slaughtered, the ratio was about the same. Slaughter of sheep and lambs dropped 45.2 percent; calves, 41.4 percent; cattle, 29.8 percent; and hogs 3.7 percent.

In total pounds of liveweight slaughtered of all species in the state, the 1949 figure dropped 20 percent from 191,540,000 pounds in 1948 to 152,588,000 in 1949.

Across the Nation, slaughter of livestock declined in numbers for all species except hogs, and

(Continued on Page 4)

HATCHERY PRODUCTION DOWN

Commercial hatcheries in North Carolina produced a total of 5,400,000 chicks during the month of May. This was a decrease of 24 percent from April out-put. However, production during the month was almost 1 percent above May of last year and 9 percent above the five-year (1944-48) average.

The sharp drop from the preceding month was largely due to reduction in demand for laying flock replacements. Demand for chicks in the commercial broiler areas remained strong.

During the first five months of 1950, commercial hatcheries in the Tar Heel State produced a total of 29,446,000 chicks. This was an increase of 11 percent over the 26,552,000 produced in the state during the first five months of last year.

TOBACCO STILL REQUIRES LONG, HOT HOURS OF LABOR



PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS JUNE 15, 1950
WITH COMPARISONS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA		U. S.
		MAY 15	JUNE 15	JUNE 15
		1950	1950	1950
- DOLLARS -				
CORN.....	BU.	1.44	1.54	1.36
WHEAT.....	BU.	2.21	2.15	1.93
OATS.....	BU.	.97	.87	.804
BARLEY.....	BU.	1.28	1.27	1.12
RYE.....	BU.	2.07	2.03	1.21
SOYBEANS.....	BU.	2.25	2.40	2.80
COWPEAS.....	BU.	4.50	4.80	4.12
PEANUTS.....	LB.	.121	.121	.108
COTTON.....	LB.	.31	.32	.30
COTTONSEED.....	TON	48.00	50.00	46.20
WOOL.....	LB.	.50	.51	.56
HOGS.....	CWT.	17.00	18.00	17.80
BEEF CATTLE.....	CWT.	18.00	19.10	23.70
VEAL CALVES.....	CWT.	24.70	24.60	25.90
SHEEP.....	CWT.	11.10	9.90	10.30
LAMBS.....	CWT.	22.30	24.20	24.80
MILK COWS.....	HEAD	135.00	137.00	197.00
CHICKENS.....	LB.	.242	.249	.221
EGGS.....	DOZ.	.315	.359	.301
MILK, WHLSE.....	CWT.	4.50	4.50 a/	3.43
RETAIL.....	QT.	.196	.196	.179
BUTTER.....	LB.	.52	.52	.557
BUTTERFAT.....	LB.	.50	.50	.597
HAY, ALL BALED.....	TON	27.60 b/	26.50 b/	20.80 b/
POTATOES.....	BU.	1.65	.95	1.27
SWEET POTATOES.....	BU.	2.35	2.30	2.11
APPLES COMMERCIAL.....	BU.	2.55	2.50	2.62
LESPEDEZA SEED.....	CWT.	8.70	8.40	7.39
KOREAN.....	CWT.	6.60	6.20	.
KOBE.....	CWT.	10.40	10.30	.
COM. & TENN. 76.....	CWT.	17.50	17.00	.
SERICEA.....	CWT.	18.50	18.00	.

a/ Estimated averages for the month.

b/ The all hay prices is the weighted average of separate kinds, including an allowance for minor kinds.

N. C. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP 3 POINTS

The "All Farm Products" index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets increased from 238 as of May 15 to 241 as of June 15. This is the third consecutive month in which the N. C. prices received index has increased. The June 15 index at 241 compares with 240 on June 15, 1949 and 275 as of June 15, 1948.

The increase of 3 points in the "All Farm Products" index resulted from an increase in the indexes of four of the commodity groups and a decrease in the indexes of two commodity groups.

The grains commodity index increased 1 point as the result of an average increase of 10 cents per bushel in corn prices. Wheat, oats, barley and rye decreased in price (see table above).

The cotton and cottonseed index increased 8 points due to increased prices being received for both cotton and cottonseed.

Generally meat prices advanced during the month ending June 15. The meat animals index increased 18 points during the month ending June 15. Hog prices advanced \$1.00 per hundredweight, beef cattle prices increased \$1.10 per hundredweight, and lambs increased \$1.90 per hundredweight. Veal calves and sheep decreased in price.

The poultry index increased 17 points as the result of higher prices for both chickens and eggs. The increase in egg prices follows the usual seasonal pattern.

The dairy products index decreased 1 point. Wholesale milk prices decreased 5 cents per hundred pounds and accounted for the decrease in the index.

The miscellaneous products index decreased 18 points during the month ending June 15. A sharp decrease in Irish potato prices accounted for most of the decrease in the miscellaneous products index.

Soybeans and cowpeas increased in price while sweet-potatoes and commercial apples decreased 5 cents per bushel.

The ratio of prices received by North Carolina farmers to prices paid by U. S. farmers increased one point during the month ending June 15.

U. S. PRICES PAID UP AGAIN

The U. S. Parity Index continued to rise for the fourth consecutive month. As of June 15, the index was 255 percent of the 1910-14 average, up 1 point from a month ago.

Higher rural living costs, mainly as a result of upturns in food prices, were responsible for the increase. Building material prices also rose as did prices for petroleum products. Prices of production goods averaged the same as in mid-May.

There was "no change" in the over-all Index of Prices Received by Farmers during the past month as lower prices for food grains (wheat) and dairy products were offset by higher prices for most other groups, mainly fruit, truck crops, cotton, and poultry and eggs. The index remains at 247 percent of its January 1910 - December 1914 average, about 1 percent below June a year ago. Among the meat animals lower prices for hogs and sheep were offset by strengthened beef cattle, veal calf, and lamb prices. Wool prices continued to increase to reach the highest point since December 1918. Changes in the fruit, dairy, and poultry groups were about seasonal.

The change in the Parity Index--less than one-half of one percent--was not sufficient to change the Parity Ratio which remained at 97 percent.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS
(N. C. PRICES RECEIVED 1909-14 = 100 PERCENT)

COMMODITY	MAY 15 1950	JUNE 15 1950	JUNE 15 1949	JUNE 15 1948	JUNE 15 1947
NORTH CAROLINA INDEX NUMBERS					
ALL FARM PRODUCTS..	238	241	240	275	261
COTTON & COTTONSEED	240	248	243	290	276
GRAINS.....	183	184	166	220	209
MEAT ANIMALS.....	341	359	351	377	338
POULTRY.....	177	194	217	256	235
DAIRY PRODUCTS.....	216	215	217	232	211
MISCELLANEOUS.....	248	230	234	242	239
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID- <i>a/</i>	94	95	98	110	113
UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS					
PRICES RECEIVED....	247	247	252	295	271
PRICES PAID	254	255	245	251	230
INTEREST & TAXES..					
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID..	97	97	103	118	118

a/ Ratio of N. C. prices received to U. S. prices paid.

COMPARISON OF U. S. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS
AND PARITY PRICES

COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		PARITY OR COMPARABLE PRICES		AVERAGE PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	
	MAY 15 1950	JUNE 15 1950	MAY 15 1950	JUNE 15 1950	MAY 15 1950	JUNE 15 1950
- DOLLARS -						
COTTON, LB.....	.292	.299	.308	.310	95	96
WHEAT, BU.....	2.04	1.93	2.19	2.21	93	87
CORN, BU.....	1.34	1.36	1.59	1.80	84	85
OATS, BU.....	.788	.804	1.94 <i>b/</i>	1.94 <i>b/</i>	84	85
BARLEY, BU.....	1.12	1.12	1.46 <i>b/</i>	1.47 <i>b/</i>	77	76
RYE, BU.....	1.24	1.21	1.70 <i>b/</i>	1.71 <i>b/</i>	-	-
BEEF CATTLE, CWT.	23.20	23.70	17.20	17.30	135	137
HOGS, CWT.....	18.50	17.80	19.10	19.20	97	93
LAMBS, CWT.....	24.60	24.80	19.00	19.10	129	130
CHICKENS, LB.....	.225	.221	.29	.29	78	76
EGGS, DOZ.....	.296	.301	.506 <i>b/</i>	.511 <i>b/</i>	68 <i>c/</i>	66 <i>c/</i>
MILK, WHOLE, CWT.	3.48	3.43 <i>a/</i>	4.39	4.41	88 <i>c/</i>	87 <i>c/</i>

a/ Preliminary

b/ Transitional parity, 95 percent of parity price computed under formula in use prior to January 1, 1950.

c/ Percentage of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices.

AVERAGE PRICES PAID BY NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARMERS WITH COMPARISONS, 1949-1950

ITEMS	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	DEC. 15 1949	MAR. 15 1950	MAR. 15 1949	DEC. 15 1949	MAR. 15 1950	MAR. 15 1949
				- DOLLARS -		
RUGS, AXMINSTER, 9' x 12', EACH.....	60.00	62.00	67.00	66.90	67.90	70.20
RUGS, FELT BASE, 9' x 12', EACH.....	11.00	10.50	12.00	9.96	9.89	10.60
CHAIRS, DINING-ROOM, OAK, EACH.....	5.20	-	4.85	-	-	5.55
TABLES, DINING-ROOM 42" x 54", EACH.....	39.00	-	34.00	-	-	49.40
DINING-ROOM SUITES, EACH.....	200.00	210.00	215.00	196.00	197.00	205.90
LIVING-ROOM SUITES, 2 PC- EACH.....	120.00	130.00	125.00	157.00	159.00	164.00
BEDROOM SUITES, EACH.....	130.00	125.00	130.00	148.00	148.00	154.00
DRESSERS, WITH MIRRORS, EACH.....	33.50	-	33.00	-	-	39.80
BEDSTEADS, METAL, DOUBLE, EACH.....	13.00	13.50	12.50	13.80	13.30	13.40
MATTRESSES 54", FELTED COTTON, EACH.....	21.50	20.50	22.50	19.70	19.50	21.10
BED SPRINGS, DOUBLE, SAGLESS, EACH.....	14.50	15.00	16.00	15.80	15.80	15.70
KITCHEN CABINETS, EACH.....	51.00	50.00	53.00	52.90	52.50	54.80
STOVES, 6 - HOLE, KITCHEN RANGES, EACH.....	80.00	81.00	82.00	103.00	103.00	107.00
WASHING MACHINES, ELECTRIC, EACH.....	120.00	120.00	130.00	116.00	117.00	125.00
REFRIGERATORS, ELECTRIC, EACH.....	200.00	195.00	225.00	201.00	198.00	224.00

FURNITURE PRICES DROP BELOW PRICES PAID LAST YEAR

Prices paid by North Carolina farmers for specified furniture items as of March 15 are somewhat under prices paid on the same date a year ago. Only living room suites and metal bedsteads increased in price over the previous year. The greatest price decline was \$30.00 per unit for electric refrigerators, with nominal decreases noted in the prices paid for other items.

Compared with December 15, however, prices paid for most items on March 15 showed a slight increase. Refrigerators, mattresses, bedroom suites and felt base rugs were lower in price. Dining room suites and living room suites were up \$10.00 per unit and prices paid for other furniture items were up from \$.50 to \$2.00 per unit.

With homebuilding breaking all previous records in recent months, prices paid by U. S. farmers for building materials continued to rise from May 15 to June 15. Further increases in lumber prices led the advance during the month. Metal products and masonry materials also were higher. These upturns were offset in part by minor declines in retail prices of composition roofing, paint, and mill-work. But on the average, prices of building materials bought by farmers are now about 1 percent higher than a year ago.

MOST FEED PRICES DECREASE

Average prices paid by North Carolina farmers for high protein and grain by-products feeds decreased slightly during the month ending June 15. Bran, middlings and mixed dairy feeds decreased in price, while corn meal, cottonseed meal and scratch grain increased in price (see table at right).

U. S. feed prices followed rather closely the changes in prices paid by North Carolina farmers.

Downturns in feed prices offset higher prices paid by farmers for feeder livestock, building and fencing materials, and motor supplies from May 15 to June 15, leaving the U. S. index of retail prices of farm production goods at 246 percent of its 1910-14 average. Prices of hay and wheat millfeeds dropped as pastures improved during the month and requirements for supplementary feeding were lessened. Retail prices of motor vehicles and farm machinery made no significant change during the month. Mid-June prices of all production goods averaged about 3 percent higher than a year ago.

FARMERS CASH RECEIPTS
FROM FARM MARKETINGS DROP SHARPLY

North Carolina farmers received a total of 16.9 million dollars from marketing of farm products during the month of April. Cash receipts during the month were down 15.9 percent from the 20.1 million dollars received during April a year ago.

Of the total, sales of livestock and livestock products returned 10.8 million dollars or 64 percent while the sale of crops returned to farmers only 6.1 million dollars. Marketing receipts were also down from the 18.2 million dollars farmers in the state received for farm products during March of this year.

For the first four months of the year, Tar Heel farmers' cash receipts from farm marketings totalled 71.7 million dollars compared with 96.0 million dollars during the same period of 1949 -- a drop of 25.3 percent.

For the United States, farmers' cash receipts in April totalled 1.5 billion dollars, a decrease of 6.2 percent from March receipts of this year and 16.7 percent below the 1.8 billion dollars farmers' cash receipts during April of last year. As in North Carolina, the major share of the income was from marketing of livestock and livestock products which accounted for 71.8 percent of the total.

With prices averaging about 6 percent lower, and the volume of marketings also down a little, cash receipts from farm marketings in the first half of 1950 will probably be around 9 percent less than receipts in the first half of 1949. The estimated total of 10.6 billion dollars includes 7.0 billion from livestock and products and 3.6 billion from crops, down 6 and 15 percent respectively. Declines are evident for most of the important commodities. They are relatively small in the livestock group, except for poultry and eggs, which show a drop of 20 percent.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS JUNE 15, 1950
WITH COMPARISONS

FEED PER HUNDRED WEIGHT	NORTH CAROLINA		UNITED STATES	
	MAY 15 1950	JUNE 15 1950	MAY 15 1950	JUNE 15 1950
				- DOLLARS -
BRAN.....	3.65	3.50	3.48	3.18
MIDDINGS.....	3.75	3.70	3.67	3.45
CORN MEAL.....	4.05	4.25	3.47	3.50
COTTONSEED MEAL....	3.70	3.75	3.97	4.00
MIXED DAIRY FEED:				
16% PROTEIN.....	3.60	3.50	3.59	3.58
18% PROTEIN.....	3.70	3.60	3.76	3.72
20% PROTEIN.....	3.95	3.95	3.86	3.83
LAYING MASH.....	4.85	4.85	4.98	4.56
SCRATCH GRAIN.....	4.25	4.30	3.99	4.00
MEAT SCRAP.....	6.10	6.10	6.27	6.23

FARM REPORT

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JULY 5, 1950

FARM REPORT

PAGE 4

STATE PIG CROP (Continued)

rowed during the same season a year ago and a 10 year average of 106,000.

For the Nation, the number of pigs saved in the spring season of 1950 (December 1, 1949 to June 1, 1950) is estimated to be 60,079,000 head. This is 1,653,000 head or about 3 percent larger than the spring crop last year. It is also 9 percent larger than the 10 year average. The 1950 spring farrowings are 3 percent, or 279,000 head less than farmers' reports last December indicated would be farrowed.

Only one region, the East North Central, shows spring farrowings as large as intended last December. The North Atlantic and Western regions show the largest departures from December intentions.

The number of pigs saved per litter in the spring of 1950 at 6.31 pigs, is 2 percent less than the 6.45 pigs saved last year. The record is 6.46 pigs, attained in the spring of 1946. Weather conditions over most of the important hog producing states were not entirely favorable during the peak farrowing months. Reporters generally attributed the smaller number of pigs saved to cold or stormy spring weather.

The 1950 spring pig crop shows a further shift to earlier farrowings. The trend to earlier litters was quite marked last year and this year's spring farrowings continue the trend.

Reports on breeding intentions indicate that 6,017,000 sows will farrow in the fall of 1950. This is 291,000 or 5 percent larger than the number farrowing last fall. If these intentions are realized, the number of sows farrowing during the fall season (June 1 to December 1) would be the third largest on record--exceeded only by the number farrowed in the fall of the war years 1942 and 1943.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES PIG CROP REPORT

	SPRING CROP (DECEMBER 1 - JUNE 1)				FALL CROP (JUNE 1 - DECEMBER 1)			
	10-YEAR AVERAGE 1939-48	1949	1950	1950 AS % OF 1949	10-YEAR AVERAGE 1939-48	1949	1950	1950 AS % OF 1949
	NORTH CAROLINA				UNITED STATES			
	THOUSAND HEAD				THOUSAND HEAD			
SOWS FARROWING.....	129	138	145	105	106	110	107 1/2	97
PIGS SAVED.....	794	897	942	105	671	715	-	-
PIGS PER LITTER 2/.....	6.2	6.5	6.5	100	-	6.5	-	-
SOWS FARROWING.....	8,883	9,054	9,518	105	5,512	5,726	6,017 1/2	105
PIGS SAVED.....	55,191	58,426	60,079	103	35,230	37,262	-	-
PIGS PER LITTER.....	6.22	6.45	6.31	98	-	6.51	-	-

1/ Number indicated to farrow from breeding intentions report
 2/ Pigs per litter - actual number.

N. C. SLAUGHTER (Continued)

total liveweight slaughtered was below the 1948 level for calves, sheep and lambs. 1949 hog slaughter showed an increase in numbers of 7 percent and 4.8 percent increase in total liveweight. A decrease of 2 percent in the number of cattle slaughtered was noted but heavier weights per animal brought the total liveweight of cattle slaughtered to 1.3 percent above

the 1948 total.

On the other hand, slaughter of sheep and lambs dropped sharply in 1949 when liveweight slaughtered fell from the 1948 total of 1,585 million pounds to 1,251 million pounds. For all species in the United States, the total liveweight slaughtered during 1949 stood at 35,934,000,000 pounds--1.3 percent above the previous year.

YEARLY SUMMARY OF LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, 1948 AND 1949 REVISED 1/

SPECIES	NORTH CAROLINA				UNITED STATES			
	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT		NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT	
	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949
	THOUSAND HEAD		THOUSAND POUNDS		THOUSAND HEAD		MILLION POUNDS	
CATTLE...	120.9	79.2	92,979	65,292	18,386	18,013	16,750	16,970
CALVES...	126.5	71.4	19,938	11,687	11,766	10,828	2,399	2,241
HOGS.....	357	335	78,267	75,414	59,669	63,744	14,750	15,472
SHEEP AND LAMBS...	4.1	2.4	356	195	16,897	13,377	1,585	1,251

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.